

WASHINGTON POST
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Readiness To Discuss Crisis Cited

**Ike, Security Aides
Meet; Will Stand
By Chiang's Rights**

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Staff Reporter

The United States yesterday officially welcomed Red China's proposal for talks on peace in the Far East.

Premier Chou En-lai's offer to talk over the mounting crisis in the Formosa Strait was contained in a statement carried by the Peking radio yesterday morning. Chou suggested resuming United States-Red China talks on the ambassadorial level, as had been carried on at Geneva on various issues from 1955 until China broke them off last December.

Word of his proposal was received here unofficially shortly before President Eisenhower, who had interrupted his Newport vacation for a one-day trip to Washington, convened a White House luncheon of top Government officials to discuss the Quemoy crisis.

After a two-hour discussion, the White House issued a statement saying the United States was ready to start such talks promptly at Warsaw be-

tween United States Ambassador Jacob D. Beam and the Communist Chinese Ambassador. In fact, Beam has been trying to get the talks started again for some time.

The statement drafted by the President and Secretary of State John Foster Dulles stressed the hope that Chou's offer meant the Red Chinese were ready to suspend the use of armed force to seize the Nationalist-held islands. Red China can and should press its territorial claims at the

conference table, not with guns, the statement said.

The two statements indicated how tough the conference's job will be. Chou reiterated Red China's determination to "liberate" Formosa and the off-shore islands. The President emphasized that the United States will not be a party "to any arrangement which would prejudice the rights of our ally, the Republic of China."

The Republic of China, headed by Chiang Kai-shek, is determined to hold Formosa and other islands. Congress has authorized the President to use force to protect Formosa. The Administration indicated Thursday that it would use American troops if necessary to hold Quemoy, the island eight miles off China's coast which has been under increasing Communist bombardment and blockade for two weeks.

President Calls in Others

The President flew to Washington yesterday morning to meet a visiting group of British Commonwealth educators. His schedule called for lunch with Dulles.

But with reports coming of increasing pressures in the Formosa Straits, the luncheon last was expanded until it became a meeting of the National Security Council, the

President's top advisory group on defense and foreign matters. Every member was there except Vice President Richard M. Nixon, who was speaking at Harvard but had been briefed by Dulles Friday.

Those present at the White House talks besides the President and Dulles included Secretary of Treasury Robert B. Anderson; Secretary of Defense Neil H. McElroy; and Gen. Nathan F. Twining, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. Besides these NSC members the meeting included George W. Allen, director of the United States Information Agency; Leo A. Hoegh, director of the Office of Civil and Defense Mobilization; and Lt. Gen. Charles P. Cabell, acting director of the Central Intelligence Agency.

White House Press Secretary James C. Hagerty said the meeting lasted 1½ hours and that Dulles remained with the President another half hour to help draft their six-paragraph statement.

No Official Red Word

The statement contained only one sentence alluding to the possibility of United States intervention to hold Quemoy. It said "consideration was given to measures which would conform to the policy" laid down at Newport Thursday.

The White House conference

undoubtedly dealt with all the possibilities, however, from the Navy's convoy of Nationalist supply ships to Quemoy to the sending of troops.

The statement said "particular note" was taken of Chou's suggestion of talks. Although the United States has received no official word about it, then it expressed the hope that talks would call off the shooting, told Chou he could press his claims at talks but that the United States would not sell out Chiang, and said Beam was ready to start talks "promptly."

The talks had been started in 1955 to obtain the release of American airmen held by Red China. They spread to other subjects, but broke down when the Communist Chinese steadfastly refused to agree to a joint declaration renouncing the use of force in the Formosa area, except in self defense.

The meetings with officials and educators over, the President walked out to the south lawn of the White House and climbed into an Army helicopter which carried him to MATS terminal at Washington National Airport, where the Columbine III was waiting to take him back to golfing and fishing at Newport. He took with him for a visit his three oldest grandchildren, David, Barbara Anne and Susan.

